

Message Text

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65-61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 L-02 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 /075 W

----- 076386

R 241753Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9577

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS LONDON 04534

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EEC, SF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EC AID TO HOMELANDS

1. GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT REPORTED FROM BRUSSELS MARCH 19 THAT EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS ARE LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE EEC'S NEW TRADE AND AID AGREEMENT WITH 46 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, THE CARIBBEAN, AND PACIFIC TO INCLUDE SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK HOMELANDS, OR BANTUSTANS. THE IDEA IS THAT THEY WOULD BE OFFERED COMMUNITY PRIVILEGES AS SOON AS THEY GAINED "INDEPENDENCE."

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2. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT THE 30 COMMISSIONERS WHO

MAY OR MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THE CONTROVERSIAL NATURE OF SUCH AN INITIATIVE, HAVE YET TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS WHICH ARE ONLY IN A FORMATIVE STAGE. BUT THERE HAS BEEN SOME CHANGE AT THE COMMISSION IN THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS PRETORIA SINCE MR. VORSTER, THE PRIME MINISTER, OPENED UP CONTACTS WITH BLACK AFRICA. THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY SAID THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT ANY REQUEST FROM AN INDEPENDENT ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND NAMIBIA (SOUTH-WEST AFRICA) FOR ASSOCIATED STATUS WITH THE EEC WHILE SOME COMMUNITY OFFICIALS ARE QUESTIONING WHETHER LESOTHO A MEMBER OF THE GROUP OF 46 YET SURROUNDED BY SOUTH AFRICAN TERRITORY, IS IN FACT MUCH MORE INDEPENDENT THAN THE BANTUSTANS WOULD BE.

3. THE REPORT CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT THE FINAL DECISION WOULD, HOWEVER, DEPEND ON THE UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, INCLUDING THOSE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALREADY ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMON MARKET. JUDGING BY THEIR PRESENT ATTITUDE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE BANTUSTANS WILL BE GRANTED EQUIVALENT STATUS.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON04534
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750103-0066
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750322/aaaaatxc.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE EC AID TO HOMELANDS
TAGS: EAID, SF, EEC
To: STATE EC BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006